

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body such that proximal movement of the steering wire will result in a pulling force being applied to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member [associated with] secured to the distal portion of the elongate body; and

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a central lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member lumen offset from the central lumen, at least a portion of the stiffening member being located within the stiffening member lumen; and

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

3. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lumen comprises a central lumen and the stiffening member comprises a plurality of stiffening members, the apparatus further comprising:

a plurality of stiffening member lumens respectively offset from the central lumen, at least a portion of the stiffening members being located within respective stiffening member lumens.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate body defines a longitudinal axis and a perimeter extending around the longitudinal axis and the stiffening member comprises an elongate member extending only partially around the perimeter.

5. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member defines a substantially constant width.

6. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a first portion defining a first width and a second portion defining a second width less than the first width.

7. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a proximal portion defining a proximal portion width and a distal portion defining a distal portion width less than the proximal portion width.

8. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a first portion defining a first width, a second portion defining a second width less than the first width and third portion defining a third width substantially equal to the first width, and the second portion is located between the first and third portions.

9. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a relatively long first portion defining a first width, a relatively short second portion defining a second width less than the first width, a relatively short third portion defining a third width substantially equal to the first width, and a relatively long fourth portion defining a fourth width less than the first width.

10. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member includes a prebent portion.

11. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member defines a constant thickness.

12. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member defines a variable thickness.

13. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stiffening member comprises a coil portion and a elongate portion.

14. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coil portion and elongate portion are secured to one another.

15. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coil portion and elongate portion are integrally formed.

16. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the stiffening member comprises a tubular member with a plurality of notches.

17. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lumen comprises a central lumen.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a central lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a steering wire lumen offset from the central lumen, at least a portion of the steering wire being located within the steering wire lumen

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body; and

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

19. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proximal portion of the elongate body is relatively stiff and the distal portion of the elongate body is relatively flexible.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
 - an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;
 - a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;
 - a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;
 - an anchoring member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and secured to the steering wire; and
 - a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.
21. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the anchoring member is substantially radiopaque.
22. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the anchoring member is located within the wall of the elongate body between the inner surface and the outer surface.
23. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the stiffening member defines a distal end secured to the anchoring member.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion;

an anchoring member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and secured to the steering wire;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a distal end secured to the anchoring member; and

an anti-tear device associated with the stiffening member.

25. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the stiffening member defines a proximal end secured to the anti-tear device.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body; and

a catheter supporting at least one of a diagnostic element and a therapeutic element located within the lumen and slidable relative thereto.

27-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device is secured to the stiffening member.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member.

45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member with a slot.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein a portion of the steering wire is positioned within the slot.

47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;

an anti-tear device associated with the stiffening member; and

a steering wire, which is not connected to the anti-tear device, having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body.

48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device is secured to the stiffening member.

49. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a proximal end; and

an anti-tear device, defining a proximal end and a distal end, secured to the proximal end of the stiffening member such that the proximal end of the anti-tear device is located within the distal portion of the elongate body.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member.

51. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device comprises~~, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;

a tubular member with a slot associated with the stiffening member; and
a steering wire, which is not connected to the tubular member with a slot,
having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body.

52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising
an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and
including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from
the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;
a steering wire having a distal portion operably connected to the distal
portion of the elongate body;
a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate
body; and
a tubular anti-tear device with a slot associated with the stiffening
member;
wherein a portion of the steering wire is positioned within the slot.

53. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the elongate body
defines a longitudinal axis and the stiffening member extends less than entirely around
the longitudinal axis.

54. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 53, wherein the anti-tear device
extends further around the longitudinal axis than the stiffening member.

55. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and
including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from
the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;
a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal
portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal
portion of the elongate body such that proximal movement of the steering wire will result
in the steering wire pulling the distal portion of the elongate body;
a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate
body; and

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

56. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 55, wherein the lumen comprises a central lumen, the apparatus further comprising:

a stiffening member lumen offset from the central lumen, at least a portion of the stiffening member being located within the stiffening member lumen.

57. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 55, wherein the elongate body defines a perimeter and the stiffening member comprises an elongate member extending only partially around the perimeter.

58. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein the stiffening member defines a substantially constant width.

59. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein the stiffening member defines a substantially constant thickness.

60. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 55, wherein the lumen comprises a central lumen.

61. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 60, further comprising:

a steering wire lumen offset from the central lumen and at least a portion of the steering wire is located within the steering wire lumen.

62. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 55, wherein the proximal portion of the elongate body is relatively stiff and the distal portion of the elongate body is relatively flexible.

63. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 55, wherein the steering wire is secured to the distal portion of the elongate body.

64. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;

anti-tear means, associated with the stiffening member, for preventing the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body; and

a steering wire, which is not connected to the anti-tear means, having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body.